



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

Telephone (505) 827-2855

Fax (505) 827-2836

www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

For Immediate Release
January 21, 2004

Contact: Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director
Phone: (505) 827-0314

Contact: Sandra Martin, NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau
Phone: (505) 428-2512

**Environment Department Announces Settlement of Sandia Clean-Up Order;
Legally Enforceable Agreement Will Lead to Clean Up**

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) today announced the successful completion of more than one year of negotiations with Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) over environmental clean up at SNL. As a result of these negotiations, NMED will enter into an Order on Consent (Consent Order) between itself, the DOE and Sandia Corporation for the completion of environmental clean up of the SNL site in Albuquerque. This Order requires a comprehensive investigation and legally enforceable cleanup of contaminated sites at SNL, including remediation of landfills, ground water and other contaminated sites.

“The successful conclusion of this order shows that this Department can work with DOE and that DOE can work with an order that is enforceable by the state,” said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. “The willingness of Sandia to sit down and hammer out an order that protects the health of New Mexicans gives me hope that DOE may come to their senses on Los Alamos National Laboratory.”

From approximately 1945 to the present, SNL has generated, treated, stored, disposed of, and otherwise handled solid wastes, hazardous wastes, hazardous waste constituents, and hazardous wastes mixed with radioactive wastes. This handling, storage, treatment and disposal of wastes have caused hazardous waste and hazardous constituents to be released into the environment. Wastes released include chlorinated and non-chlorinated solvents, high explosives, metals, polychlorinated biphenyls, nitrates, and radionuclides. In several locations, contamination of the regional aquifer (from which many entities including the City of Albuquerque draw drinking water) has occurred. No drinking water wells currently in use by the City of Albuquerque are contaminated by SNL operations.

There are a total of 126 sites at SNL that require corrective action. Under the Consent Order, these sites will be cleaned up following ironclad schedules that the state will enforce with stipulated penalties of up to \$3,000 a day if deadlines are missed. NMED is inviting the public to submit written comments on the draft Consent Order during a

public comment period that starts today. NMED will also hold an informational meeting on **Tuesday, February 3, 2004, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**, at the **Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center, 501 Elizabeth S.E., in Albuquerque** in order to answer questions and inform the public about the draft Consent Order. Members of the public may submit to NMED written comments on the draft Consent Order at any time during the public comment period, including at the informational meeting. NMED will issue a final Consent Order after considering all written comments received from the public.

Both the draft Consent Order and the administrative record may be reviewed at the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau located at 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303, or the NMED District 1 Office located at 4131 Montgomery NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Procedures for submitting written comments and a copy of the draft Consent Order are also available at the NMED website:

<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/snlperm.html>

Written comments will be accepted until **February 20, 2004, at 5:00 p.m.**

SNL is a multidisciplinary laboratory engaged in research and development of conventional and nuclear weapons, alternative energy sources, and a wide variety of national security related research and development projects. SNL comprises five Technical Areas located within Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) and five large remote test areas located on KAFB and adjacent U.S. Forest Service lands. The SNL/KAFB area is bounded on the north and northwest by the City of Albuquerque, on the east by the Cibola National Forest, on the south by the Pueblo of Isleta, and on the west by land owned by the State of New Mexico and the Albuquerque International Sunport. The DOE and Sandia Corporation (a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation) are co-operators of the SNL facility.

For additional information, please contact Sandra Martin, Acting Chief, NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau, at (505) 428-2512, or Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

####